

**{JMU Legacy Family}**

# 63 years, 12 Dukes, 4 generations

*The Madison Experience is Edwin Turner's family tradition* BY GABRIELLE PICCININNI ('11)

**I**n the fall of 1956, James Edwin Turner ('60) enrolled in Madison College to major in business administration. He spent the next four years setting a foundation for a Turner family tradition and a JMU family legacy that extends to present day. Little did he know that generations of Turners would follow his example and echo his footsteps around the Madison campus. Even his mother.

Six decades later the Turner-Hoover alumni legacy includes 12 Dukes and spans four generations of the family. These alumni could not be prouder of their deeply rooted Purple Pride and are thrilled to see it grow. Members who followed Edwin Turner's example include his mother, Lillian Turner ('60), who graduated on the same day as Edwin. Other members of the Turner-Hoover alumni family are Edwin's sister, Wanda Grove ('64); niece, Karen Hoover ('71); niece, Anne Hoover ('72); son, Timothy W. Turner ('87); nephew, Steven W. Turner ('87); daughter-in-law, Robin M. Turner ('92); niece, Rebecca H. Harris ('10M); and the newest member granddaughter, Janie E. Turner ('14).

In his marriage to Sue Hoover in 1956, Edwin gained a sister-in-law, Bonnie Hoover ('48), who was an active member of the Madison College community. She remained a close friend of President Linwood H. Rose and President Emeritus Ronald E. Carrier until her death in 2005. She was an active member of the Madison women's golf team and endower of the Bonnie Hoover Scholarship Fund for the women's golf program. To honor her memory and the family's enthusiasm for golf, the Turners are repeated donors to the Duke Club, specifically supporting the men's golf team.

During the era that Turner roamed the Madison campus student life was very different. Although men were admitted to Madison College in 1946, they remained day students until 1966, a situation that worked well for the newly married Turner. "My main interests were to go to school and get it done," he says.

In his sophomore year, Edwin's mother enrolled. With two young daughters still at home, Lillian Turner entered the admis-

sions office in fall 1957 as a full-time mother, took various placement tests, and exited as a full-time sophomore student. Three years later, she earned a degree in home economics and graduated alongside her son in Wilson Hall.

"In those days, all the students could fit in Wilson Hall," says Edwin who was excited to graduate with his mother. The tassel from his graduation cap is the only souvenir he kept from the momentous day because, "as soon as we all left the front doors of Wilson we were greeted by a crowd of juniors bartering for caps and gowns for their graduation," he recalls and laughs.

After 29 years of working as a sales representative, first for Rocco Feeds in Harrisonburg and then for Wayne Feeds, Edwin and his wife, Sue, enjoy the relaxed life of retirement in Ashland, Va. But they always find time to visit JMU and the Shenandoah Valley. "We still call the valley home," he says.

JMU freshman Janie Turner ('14) could not agree more. "Home for me is in Powhatan, Va., but the valley is like a second home." She is the 12th member of the Turner family legacy and the first grandchild to extend the legacy into a fourth generation of Dukes. "For as long as I can remember everyone in my family has always been a JMU fan, especially my grandparents, who always watch or listen to JMU games."

With 11 relatives as resources for JMU advice it's hard to believe anything came as a surprise to Janie. "From the moment I told my family that I was considering JMU the stories began to flow," she says "I heard all the great experiences that everyone had and how much they loved JMU."

With only one semester under her belt, Turner is already on her career path — following her grandmother, Sue Turner. Janie is a nursing major and a member of the Nursing Student Association. "I never imagined our JMU legacy would last this long," says Edwin, "but I am very proud it has."



**Janie E. Turner ('14) and her uncle Timothy W. Turner ('87) take a look at the 1960 *Bluestone* yearbook and the photo of Janie's grandfather Edwin Turner ('60), who graduated with his mother Lillian Turner ('60) in Wilson Hall. The Turner family legacy includes 12 Dukes, and Edwin says he is proud that JMU alumni run in four generations of his family. (Inset): Lillian Turner and Edwin Turner share graduation moments on the steps of Wilson Hall.**



**MOTHER AND SON GRADUATE — J. Edwin Turner, of a nephew of Rocco Feeds, has completed requirements for a degree at Madison College. His mother, Mrs. John L. Turner, is a senior majoring in home economics at Madison. She will receive their degree at graduation in June.**